[Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.]

(*a*) whether there is any expert to advise the Government on the qualities of salt manufactured in the State;

(*b*) whether the provisions in the Salt Regulations regarding the conditions under which salt is to be manufactured are strictly enforced by the Excise Inspector of the Factories;

(*c*) whether there has been any case of laxity on the part of the Inspectors of Factories regarding the enforcement of rules described in part (*b*) brought to the notice of Government or the Excise Commissioner or the Assistant Excise Commissioner; and

(*d*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the affirmative, may I know from Government how such officers have been dealt with?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). The member is referred to answers to parts (c), (d), (e) and (f) of interpellation No. 62 [468] by Mr. K. Kesavan.

Theft of salt in salt factories.

65. **MR. K. KESAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the approximate value of salt that might lie in the platform in the factories of Thamarakulam at any one time; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that there is any strong fencing to prevent the theft from the salt factories in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) The stock of salt on 31-11-1112 in the Thamarakulam Factories was 1856233 maunds, made up of 1251918 maunds of stored and 604315 maunds of unstored salt. The value of the same comes to Bh. Rs. 4060509 and annas 11 at the factory selling price of Rs. 2 and annas 3 per maund.

(*b*) There is strong fencing in most of the factories. Where there is no proper fencing, arrangements have been made for putting up wire fencing.

Theft of salt in salt factories.

66. **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the approximate value of salt that might lie on the platform in the factories of Thamaracolam at any time; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that there is any strong fencing to prevent theft of salt from the Factories in Travancore?

MR. C. O MADHAVAN: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 65 [469] by Mr. K. Kesavan.

Leakage of revenue from salt.

67. **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are serious complaints about the leakage of revenue to Government facilitated by the transport of salt under bond;

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(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner has received any petitions regarding the smuggling of salt during transport seasons in 1110, 1111 and 1112; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Excise Commissioner and the findings thereon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) this does not arise.

Leakage of revenue from salt.

68. **MR. K. KESAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are serious complaints about the leakage of revenue to Government facilitated by the transport of salt under bond;

(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner has received any petitions regarding the smuggling of salt during transport seasons in 1110, 1111 and 1112; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Excise Commissioner and the findings thereon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 67 by Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.

Over-issue of salt from the factory at Kovalam.

69. **MR. K. KESAVAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Excise Commissioner had detected a case of over-issue of salt from the S. C T. M. Factory at Kovalam in 1111;

(*b*) whether the Excise Commissioner, after finding excess salt in the bags he weighed in the factory at Kovalam, has entrusted the weighment of the balance to the then Assistant Excise Commissioner;

(*c*) what was the Assistant Excise Commissioner's report on the weighment of the balance described in part (*b*); and

(*d*) the findings of the Excise Commissioner on the conduct of the Assistant Excise Commissioner in the case described in parts (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: (*a*) Excess was found in 50 bags check-weighed by the Excise Commissioner.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The whole quantity was weighed by the Assistant Excise Commissioner, and the result of the weighment showed that there was not only no excess, but that there was deficiency of 4 maunds 6 seers.

(*d*) There was no ground for taking action against the Assistant Excise Commissioner and hence no action was taken against him.

Control system in Salt Factories.

70. **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the control system prevalent in the sale of salt in the factories of Travancore;

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